



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 27, 2002

H.R. 3656

A bill to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to provide for the applicability of that act to the European Central Bank

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations
on March 20, 2002*

CBO estimates that H.R. 3656 would have no budgetary effect. Because it would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3656 would extend to the European Central Bank (ECB) the same privileges, exemptions, and immunities given to the central banks of sovereign states. Specifically, it would protect the ECB's assets from judicial process and attachment. The ECB is an independent legal entity owned by the central banks of the 12 countries of the European Union that comprise the euro area and functions as the central bank for the euro. It holds some of the foreign reserve assets of those countries in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and commercial banks in the United States. The bill would assure that the assets held collectively by the ECB retain the same protection they had when they were held separately by the central banks of its member countries.

H.R. 3656 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Joseph C. Whitehill. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.